

BUDGET MEMO #36

DATE:

April 25, 2013

TO:

The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM:

Chief Dave Rohr, Fire Department

THROUGH: Robert Sisson, City Manager

SUBJECT:

Installation of Fiber Optic to Public Safety Training Center

Background

The request to install fiber optic services to the training center has been a CIP request item for the past five fiscal years. Current internet connection is through a wireless card which produces intermittent connectivity.

The Public Safety Training Center is an essential facility for the training of City of Fairfax departments including fire, EMS, police and public works. Two classrooms provide meeting space for approximately 50 persons. In addition, the Training Center was built with consideration for the continuity of operations in the event one of the fire stations, the police station, EOC or public works facilities became non-functional due to disaster.

Due to City INET design and the existing franchise agreement, Cox Communications is the only vendor able to make a direct connection to the City INET/NCRNET.

Defined Needs

Installation of a fiber optic connection to the City INET/NCRNET would provide the following improvements and capabilities:

- Voice Over IP Phones connected to rest of City phone system and data infrastructure
- Ability to support technology needs as a backup EOC location
- Bring facility in-line with all other similar City facilities
- Video Tele-Conference capability for use during regional meetings, preparedness planning, or command post operations during a sustained tank farm incident
- Support of Volunteer FD online training program
- Ability to conduct digital online incident simulations for training and promotional exams

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- Provide a backbone for installation of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) terminals and fire radio dispatch system for monitoring within facility
- Online access during classroom sessions of Citizen Fire Academy and other public sessions (Webinars for employee development)
- Online access to the National Fire Reporting System (NFIRS) and other related resources

Estimated Costs

A request to fund this project through re-allocate identified cost savings in FY 2013 was submitted to the Office of Finance on March 22, 2013. The intent was to utilize the identified savings in 911 costs to fund this request and remove it from the CIP.

Discussions have been ongoing with IT and Cox Communications for several years regarding this project. The Department of Information Technology recently received a quote of \$67,305.14 to bring INET-Fiber to the training center location. The relatively high cost is attributed to the requirement to run the fiber directly from Merrifield to our facility.

The Fire Department and Department of Information Technology continue to explore alternative solutions for funding this project.